



CITIZEN REGISTER

... a newsletter from the Consular Section for American citizens and wardens

Tax Time – Again

As Dave Barry wrote, “April 15 is approaching; it’s time for Americans to gather up their tax files and flee the country.” Of course that’s not really a viable strategy if you’re reading this, as you’re already out of the U.S. Fortunately, there are some local and Internet resources that may be of help at this time of year.

direct links to the tax commissions and tax forms for all 50 states, and also has information about on-line filing for those states that allow it.

Extensions for persons living abroad

A question often raised by Americans living overseas concerns extensions for filing federal returns and payment of any tax due. The following information on extensions was taken directly from the IRS website. Please consult that site for further information on extensions. (**Note:** this information applies only to the filing of **federal** tax returns, as the states set their own requirements for extending the time for filing state tax returns. Consult your state tax commission if you have questions about your state return.)



Tax info at ACS

ACS staff cannot provide tax advice. However, we have a supply of the most common federal tax forms and publications for this tax year. ACS also has a list of tax consultants in Jerusalem who are willing to assist U.S. taxpayers in completing federal income tax returns.

Assistance on-line

Online assistance for filing federal returns is readily available at the IRS website, www.irs.gov. The IRS site includes downloadable forms, publications, and instructions for filing electronically.

A good source of information on state tax requirements and filing is the website of the Federation of Tax Administrators (www.taxadmin.org). This site contains

Extensions

You can get an extension of time to file your return. In some circumstances, you can also get an extension of time to file and pay any tax due.

However, if you pay the tax due af-

(Continued on page 2)

Consular Section
27 Nablus Road
P.O. Box 290
91002 Jerusalem
Phone: 2-622-7200

ACS
jerusalemacs@state.gov
Fax: 2-627-2233
Visa
jerusalemvisa@state.gov
Fax: 2-628-5455

Emergencies

If you need emergency assistance after hours please call: Tel. (2) 622-7250

Note: This number is reserved for critical emergencies only. Routine ACS or Visa inquires should be made during normal consular business hours to Tel. (2) 622-7200, Monday—Friday 8:00 AM—4:30 PM.

If you wish to unsubscribe from this newsletter, please email jerusalemacs@state.gov. You will still receive warden notices if you unsubscribe from the newsletter.

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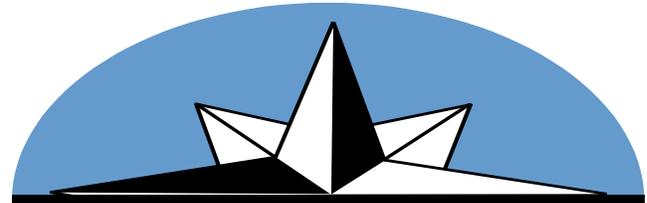
ter the regular due date, interest will be charged from the regular due date until the date the tax is paid.

Automatic 2-month extension. You may be allowed an automatic 2-month extension to file your return and pay any federal income tax that is due. You will be allowed the extension if you are a U.S. citizen or resident, and on the regular due date of your return:

1. You are living outside of the United States and Puerto Rico and your main place of business or post of duty is outside the United States and Puerto Rico, or
2. You are in military or naval service on duty outside the United States and Puerto Rico. If you use a calendar year, the regular due date of your return is April 15.

Service in a combat zone. If you served in a combat zone or qualified hazardous duty area, you may be eligible for a longer extension of time to file. See *Extension of Deadline* in Publication 3.

Married taxpayers. If you file a joint return, either



Visa Section Public Hours

Nonimmigrant (Visitor) Visas

Monday – Thursday: 12:30-2:30 p.m.

Friday: Closed

By appointment only

Immigrant Visas

Monday – Friday: 8:30 – 10:30 a.m.

By appointment only

Immigrant Visa Petitions

Tuesday: 8:30 – 10:30 a.m.

No appointment necessary

Visa Section Closed: Last Friday of the month and on U.S. and local holidays.

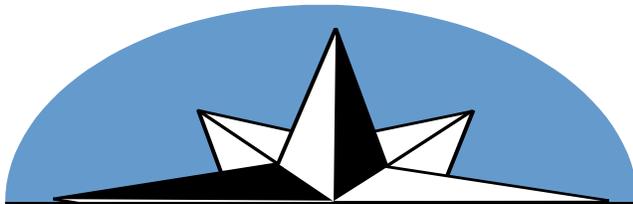
Reminder: Strollers are not permitted inside the Consulate, and it is not possible to leave them outside unattended.

you or your spouse can qualify for the automatic extension. If you and your spouse file separate returns, this automatic extension applies only to the spouse who qualifies for it.

How to get the extension. To use this automatic 2-month extension, you must attach a statement to your return explaining which of the two situations listed earlier qualified you for the extension.

4-month extension. If you are not able to file your return by the due date, you generally can get an automatic 4-month extension of time to file by filing Form 4868. You can file Form 4868 electronically. For more information about filing electronically, see the form instructions. The form must show your properly estimated tax liability based on the information available to you at the time of filing.

Source: www.irs.gov



ACS Section Public Hours

Monday – Friday: 8:30 – 11:30 a.m.

Closed: Last Friday of the month and on U.S. and local holidays.

Hint: Consider avoiding Monday and the first day after a holiday since these days are usually our busiest.

Reminder: Strollers are not permitted inside the Consulate, and it is not possible to leave them outside unattended.

WORLDWIDE CAUTION

April 29, 2004

ACS Warden Message

This Public Announcement is being updated to remind U.S. citizens of the continuing threat of terrorist actions and anti-American violence against U.S. citizens and interests overseas. This supersedes the Worldwide Caution dated March 23, 2004 and expires on October 23, 2004.

The Department of State is deeply concerned about the heightened threat of terrorist attacks against U.S. citizens and interests abroad. The Department is also concerned about the potential for demonstrations and violent actions against U.S. citizens and interests overseas. U.S. citizens are reminded to maintain a high level of vigilance and to take appropriate steps to increase their security awareness.

The Department of State remains concerned by indications that al-Qaida continues to prepare to strike U.S. interests abroad. Al-Qaida and its associated organizations have most recently struck in the Middle East and in Europe but other geographic locations could also be venues for attacks. Future al-Qaida attacks could possibly involve non-conventional weapons such as chemical or biological agents as well as conventional weapons of terror. We also cannot rule out that al-Qaida will attempt a catastrophic attack within the U.S.

Terrorist actions may include, but are not limited to, suicide operations, hijackings, bombings or kidnappings. These may involve aviation and other transportation and maritime interests, and may also include conventional weapons, such as explosive devices. Terrorists do not distinguish between official and civilian targets. These may include facilities where U.S. citizens and other foreigners congregate or visit, including residential areas, clubs, restaurants, places of worship, schools, hotels and public areas. U.S. citizens are encouraged to maintain a high level of vigilance and to take appropriate steps to increase their security awareness.

U.S. Government facilities worldwide remain at a heightened state of alert. These facilities may temporarily close or suspend public services from time to time to assess their security posture. In those instances, U.S. embassies and consulates will make every effort to provide emergency services to U.S. citizens. Americans abroad are urged to monitor the local news and maintain contact with the nearest U.S. embassy or consulate.

As the Department continues to develop information on any potential security threats to U.S. citizens overseas, it shares credible threat information through its consular information program documents, available on the Internet at <http://travel.state.gov>. In addition to information on the Internet, travelers may obtain up-to-date information on security conditions by calling 1-888-407-4747 toll-free in the U.S. or outside the U.S. and Canada on a regular toll line at 1-317-472-2 328.

NEW IMMIGRANT VISA FEE SCHEDULE

Effective April 30, 2004, a new fee schedule goes into effect for immigrant visa applications. Fees are based on the action requested, with each action requested by the proper Department of Homeland Security form. The fee changes for each form are as follows:

I-130 Petition for Alien Relatives	from \$130	to \$185
I-600/600A Orphan Petitions	from \$460	to \$525
I-601 Waiver of Excludability	from \$195	to \$250
I-360 Widow/Special Immigrant Petition	from \$130	to \$185
I-131 Travel Document Application	from \$110	to \$165
I-212 Readmission Application	from \$195	to \$250

VOTERS – REGISTRATION TIME

Most states do not make special provisions for foreign-born citizens who have never resided in the US. However, twelve states have specific rules that permit foreign-born American citizens who have never resided in the US to use their parent's state of voting residence. The twelve states are:

Delaware, Georgia, Hawaii, Iowa, Massachusetts, New York, Oklahoma, Oregon, Rhode Island, Tennessee, West Virginia and Wisconsin.

A US citizen who is foreign-born and who has never resided in the US, and whose parents are not from one of the 12 states that specifically allow use of a parent's place of voting residence will find it takes some effort to register.

Option #1: If your parents are from a state other than the 12 mentioned, you should still send in the FPCA (SF-76, Federal Post Card Application) to election officials in their parent's state of voting residence and request registration (in an attached statement) based on their parent's voting residence. You should note whatever additional ties you have to that locale. You should provide good contact information - an e-mail address, telephone number and or fax number - in case the registrar has questions. Let the local election official accept or reject the request.

Option #2: Try another state to which you have ties. Maybe you had a job (and paid taxes) while visiting grandma or other relatives during a summer vacation, got a drivers license, joined a club, organization or association based in a US state, or opened a bank account. Perhaps you own property in a US state. You should fill out the FPCA and send it in to the local registrar in the county/state where you have the strongest ties. You should attach a piece of paper on which you explain your ties to the county/state and ask the assistance of the registrar in registering to vote.

Option #3: If you are rejected by the registrar as having insufficient ties, you should try the next state, and so on.

The same problem exists for recently naturalized spouses. They are now American citizens, but may not have sufficient ties to a state to establish a place of voting residence. Again, they would have to send in an FPCA and attach whatever evidence they have of their ties to that locale.

This takes time, and the clock is ticking. The national elections are in November, and several states have local elections between now and then. Almost all require registration a minimum number of days before casting your ballot, so start as early as possible.

You may obtain the SF-76 FPCA from the Consulate or on the web at: <http://www.fvap.gov/pubs/onlinefpca.html>

Israel, the West Bank and Gaza

April 28, 2004

This Travel Warning is being updated in light of the killings of HAMAS leaders in Gaza. In the aftermath of the killings of two HAMAS leaders by Israel in less than a month, statements have been made by some HAMAS elements and other terrorist groups threatening revenge against U.S. interests, which could include kidnappings. The Department of State continues to urge all U.S. citizens to depart Gaza immediately, and to warn U.S. citizens to defer travel to Israel, the West Bank and Gaza due to current safety and security concerns. This Travel Warning supersedes the Travel Warning issued March 23, 2004.

The Department of State warns U.S. citizens to depart Gaza immediately and to defer travel to Israel, the West Bank and Gaza due to current safety and security concerns. Statements have been made by HAMAS elements and other terrorist groups threatening revenge against U.S. interests following the killing of HAMAS leaders in Gaza, which could include kidnappings, although we have no information that these threats will be carried out at this time. HAMAS has also vowed revenge against Israel. Ongoing violence over the last three years has caused numerous civilian deaths and injuries, including to some American tourists, students and residents, as well as to U.S. Mission personnel. The potential for further terrorist acts remains high. The situation in Israel, Jerusalem, Gaza and the West Bank remains extremely volatile with continuing terrorist attacks, confrontations and clashes. The Department of State recommended all U.S. citizens depart Gaza following the lethal terrorist attack on U.S. Mission personnel in Gaza on October 15, 2003. In addition, as the Israeli Defense Force continues to conduct extensive military operations, especially in Gaza, the possibility that innocent bystanders might become victims remains high.

American citizens who remain in Israel, the West Bank and Gaza despite this and earlier warnings are urged to continue to review their personal security situations and to take those actions they deem appropriate to ensure their well-being. Private Americans are encouraged to follow the precautions detailed below and remain in close communication with the American Embassy in Tel Aviv and the American Consulate General in Jerusalem for more detailed information. American citizens residing in the West Bank and Jerusalem should consider relocating to a safe location.

American citizens should avoid, to the extent possible, public places such as restaurants and cafes, shopping and market areas and malls, pedestrian zones, public buses and bus stops, and other crowded venues and the areas around them. Americans should also avoid demonstrations. Roads designed for Israeli settlers, including in East Jerusalem, have been the sites of frequent shooting attacks and roadside explosives, sometimes resulting in death or injury. U.S. Embassy and Consulate employees and their families have been prohibited from using public buses throughout Israel, the Jerusalem municipality, the West Bank and Gaza.

U.S. Government personnel in Israel, Jerusalem, the West Bank and Gaza are under tight security controls, including prohibition of non-official travel to the West Bank and Gaza. Official travel to the West Bank and Gaza is conducted only for specific mission needs, and under the auspices of U.S. Government security personnel. Occasionally, U.S. Government personnel are prohibited from traveling to sections of Jerusalem and parts of Israel, depending on prevailing security conditions.

As a result of ongoing military activity in the West Bank and Gaza, sections of those areas have been declared closed military zones. The Government of Israel may deny entry at Ben Gurion Airport or at a land border to persons it believes might travel to "closed" areas in the West Bank or Gaza or to persons the Israeli authorities believe may sympathize with the Palestinian cause and are seeking to meet with Palestinian officials. Closed areas in the West Bank and Gaza have been subject to intense shelling and firing. In some instances, Americans have been wounded and their property damaged. Major cities in the West Bank are often placed under Israeli military curfew. All persons in areas under curfew should remain indoors or risk arrest or injury. Americans have been killed, seriously injured, detained, and deported as a result of encounters with Israeli Defense Forces operations in Gaza and the West Bank. Travel restrictions may be imposed with little or no warning and travelers run the risk of finding themselves stranded as a result. Due to the closures and fighting, provision of medical and humanitarian care has been severely delayed in those areas.

In addition, dual Palestinian-American citizens may encounter difficulties, or be barred from, entering and/or departing Israel, the West Bank and Gaza, especially during times of Israeli closures. Americans who hold Palestinian ID numbers should consult the Embassy or Consulate for the most recent information before attempting to cross relevant borders. These restrictions can change frequently and without any advance notice.

During times when the closures and curfews are lifted, in order to depart Israel via Ben Gurion Airport, Palestinian-Americans must apply for an Israeli transit permit. Except in humanitarian or special interest cases, Israeli authorities are unlikely to issue this permit. In this event, and notwithstanding the restrictions mentioned above, travelers must depart via land crossings and may experience lengthy delays. All travelers who enter or travel in Gaza or the West Bank should expect delays and difficulties at Israeli military checkpoints located throughout those areas,

and should exercise particular care when approaching and traveling through checkpoints. Travelers should also be aware they might not be allowed passage through the checkpoints.

From time to time, the Embassy and Consulate General may temporarily suspend public services to review their security posture. Due to current limitations on official travel by U.S. Government employees to the West Bank and Gaza made necessary by the unrest and uncertain conditions, the ability of consular staff to offer timely assistance to U.S. citizens in need in these areas is considerably reduced at present. U.S. citizens who require emergency services may telephone the Consulate General in Jerusalem at (972) (2) 622-7230 or the Embassy in Tel Aviv at (972) (3) 519-7355.

Current information on travel and security in Israel, the West Bank and Gaza may be obtained from the Department of State by calling 1-888-407-4747 within the United States, or, from overseas, 1-317-472-2328. U.S. citizens should consult the Consular Information Sheet for Israel, the West Bank and Gaza, the Middle East and North Africa Public Announcement, and the Worldwide Caution Public Announcement at the Department's Internet site at <http://travel.state.gov>. Up-to-date information on security conditions can also be accessed at <http://www.usembassy-israel.org.il> or <http://jerusalem.usconsulate.gov>.

PUBLIC NOTICE TO AMERICAN CITIZENS REGARDING PASSPORT REQUIREMENTS

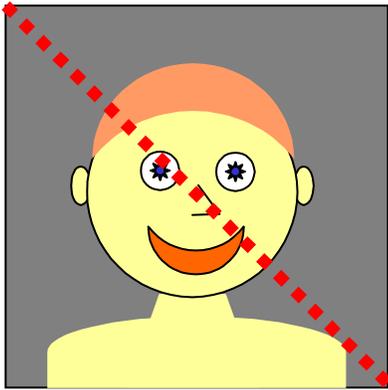
Personal Appearance Required when Minors Apply for U.S. Passports

The Bureau of Consular Affairs of the U.S. State Department has announced certain changes in the rules on how to apply for a U.S. passport. These changes, which take effect immediately, will require more citizens to apply in person at the U.S. Consulate, and allow fewer applications for passports by mail. Under the new rules, only adults who were issued a full-validity (10 year) passport on/after their 16th birthday can apply to renew their passports by mail; all other passport applicants must appear in person. The changes are effective worldwide, and are not limited to the Jerusalem consular district.

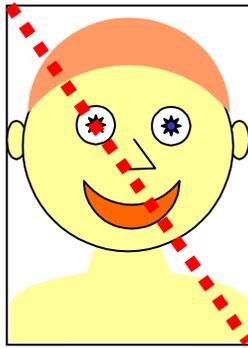
The personal appearance requirements for passport applicants are as follows:

1. **All first-time applicants must appear in person:** Regardless of age, all persons applying for their first American passport must apply in person.
2. **Personal appearance of minors is required:** When an application for a U.S. passport is made on behalf of a minor under the age of 14, the minor **must appear** at the Consulate with his/her parent[s] or guardian[s].
3. **Minors may not renew passports by mail:** A minor must personally appear at the Consulate to apply for a passport even if the minor was previously issued a U.S. passport. Eligibility for renewal of passports by mail is limited to those persons who were issued a full-validity passport when they were **16 years of age**, or older.
4. **Two-parent signature requirement remains in effect:** When a minor under age 14 applies for a passport, both parents must accompany the minor to the consulate and execute the passport application on the minor's behalf. In the alternative, one parent may accompany the minor and execute the application, **if** the other parent provides written consent for the minor to obtain a passport. Minors who have reached the age of 14 can execute their own passport applications, and need not be accompanied by their parents.
5. **Waiver of appearance requirement:** The requirement that all first-time passport applicants appear in person cannot be waived. In certain **very limited** circumstances, such as medical emergencies or cases involving serious and unusual hardships, a waiver of the personal appearance requirement can be granted to minors under age 14 who have previously been issued passports. All requests to waive a minor's personal appearance must be made by the minor's parent or guardian.

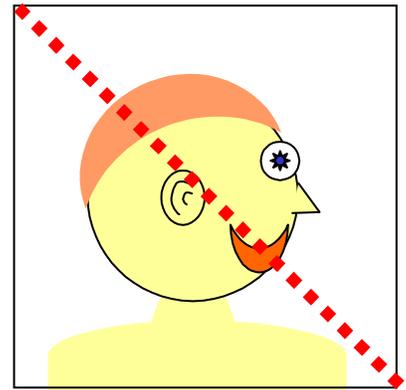
Please contact the American Citizen Services Section in Jerusalem if you have questions about any of these requirements:



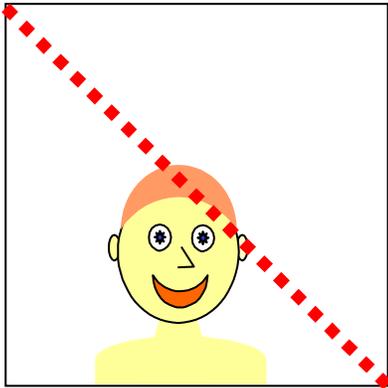
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NO - Picture is correct size,
but photo is too small



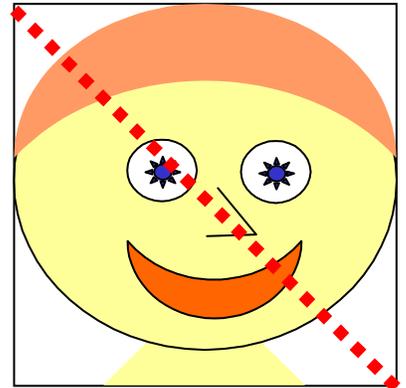
NO - Picture must be full face



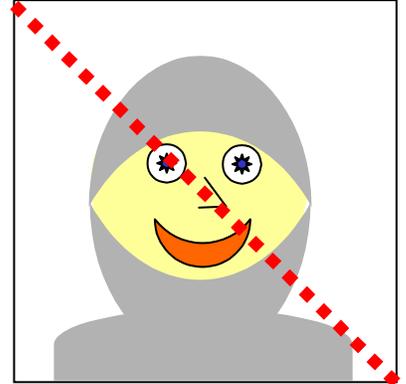
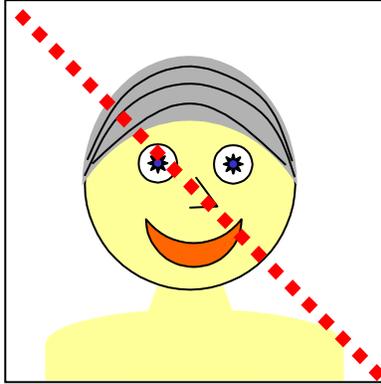
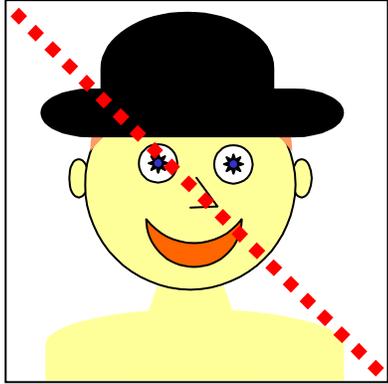
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US Passport Photo Requirements

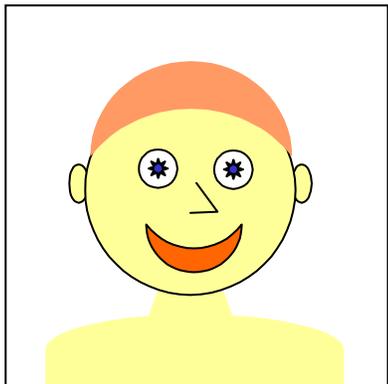
All applicants (including minors) must submit 2 identical photos sized 2in X 2in (5cmX5cm). The head must be between 1 & 1 3/8 inches (2.5-3.5cm) from top to chin. Photos must be full face, front view with a plain white or off-white background, taken within the past 6 months, showing current appearance.



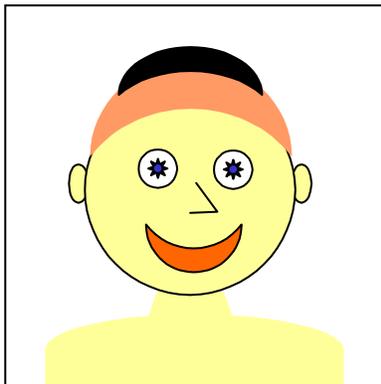
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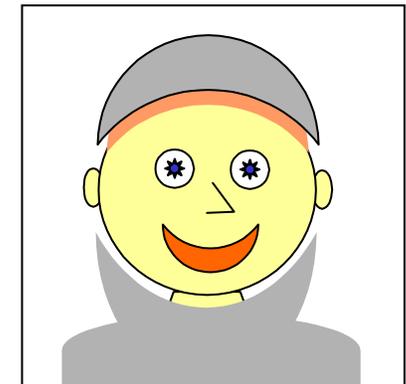
Unless worn daily for religious reasons, all headgear should be removed. In all cases, no item may obscure any part of the face. Hats, shawls, caps, *kippas*, or *tai'yees* worn for religious reasons that do not obscure the face or ears are acceptable.



YES



YES



YES

NOTICE TO AMERICAN CITIZENS REGARDING HOURS FOR PASSPORT AND OTHER SERVICES

The U.S. State Department recently announced certain changes in the rules for applying for a U.S. passport that will require more citizens to apply in person at the Consulate. All minors under the age of 14 are now required to apply for passports in person, even if the minor previously had a passport.

In order to minimize the time American citizens wait in line for services at the Consulate, the following procedures will take effect beginning Monday, April 26, 2004:

1. Public hours for American citizens will remain 8:30 – 11:30 a.m., Monday – Friday. The Consulate is closed to the public on the last Friday of each month, and on American, Israeli, and Islamic holidays.
2. For the best possible service, American citizens are **strongly** encouraged to arrive at the Consulate early in the day. Because of limited space, applicants who arrive at the Consulate after 10:00 a.m., particularly during the summer travel season, frequently encounter long waits for service.
3. From 8:30 – 9:30 a.m. Monday – Friday, families with more than one minor child applying for passports will be given first priority in service. If such families arrive at the consulate during the 8:30 – 9:30 a.m. period, they will be admitted **before** other applicants. Families arriving at the Consulate after 9:30 a.m. will be admitted, along with other applicants, on a first-come/first-serve basis.

Please contact the American Citizens Services section if you have questions about our hours or other matters.

Telephone: (02) 622-7200; (02) 622-7230; (02) 622-7216

Fax: (02) 627-2233

e-mail: jerusalemcs@state.gov

Notice Regarding Electronic Visa Applications

Applicants for nonimmigrant visas may now use an electronic visa application. Applicants will be able to complete a DS-156 (Non-Immigrant Visa Application) at <http://evisaforms.state.gov> which hosts an online visa application form. Applicants fill in the data and print out the completed application form to be presented at the time he or she applies for a visa. This data provided on the website is automatically transferred into the non-immigrant visa processing system, allowing cases to be processed faster. Use of the website requires installation of Adobe Acrobat: technical details are available on the website.

Applicants may still obtain a paper visa application form from the U.S. Consulate (see address box, page 1), or from travel agents. The completed form DS-156 must be submitted to the Visa Section along with the completed DS-157 (Supplement to Non-Immigrant Visa Application).

Applicants seeking F (student), J (exchange visitor) or M (vocational student) visas must complete and submit Form DS-158 in addition to Forms DS-156 and DS-157.